

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 4, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
S-221 The U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
S-230 The U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232 The U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The United States House of Representatives  
H-204 The U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Mr. Speaker and Ms. Pelosi:

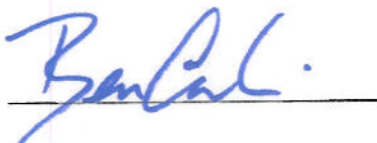
We strongly urge you to take the opportunity during the current pro forma session of Congress to pass by unanimous consent a bill to extend the FAA's current authorization. If a unanimous consent agreement cannot be reached, we request that you immediately call Congress back into session, under regular order, to debate and vote on an FAA authorization extension to restore the full operation of the FAA and get America's aviation professionals back to work.

Congress must resolve the extension of the authorization for the FAA immediately.

The Federal Aviation Administration has effectively been shut down for thirteen days, resulting in the furlough of 4,000 FAA employees, issuance of stop work orders for more than 200 airport and aviation safety improvement projects that provide jobs for more than 70,000 workers, and the loss of an estimated \$350,000,000 in revenues that support the maintenance, improvement and operational safety of our nation's complex aviation system. To allow this shut down to last as long as 50 or more days would be completely irresponsible, do nothing but harm our already fragile economy, and completely validate the American public's distrust and anger with Congress.

We urge you to prevent a prolonged and devastating shutdown of an agency that is so vital to the expedience of U.S. commerce and the safety of the air travelling public. We stand ready to support immediate procedural action to prevent further delay in ending the FAA shutdown. We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Rabert M. Menzies

Frank R. Lankenberg

Jim Webb

Mark R. Warner